

REMARKS

In the non-final Office action mailed on October 8, 2008, the restriction requirement against claims 8-19 was withdrawn. Claim 8 was rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,713,927 ("Kikuchi et al.") under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and claims 10, 11, 14, 16, and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kikuchi et al. under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 9, 12, 15, 18 and 19 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter.

By the present amendment, claims 8, 14, and 19 have been amended, claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice, and new claims 20-23 have been added. Claims 3-11 and 13-23 remain pending. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 12, and claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8, and all claims dependent thereon, are allowable.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to include the cutting step of dependent claim 19, and to correct a typographical error. In addition, amended claim 19 recites a gap formed after the step of cutting. Applicant respectfully submits that Kikuchi et al. does not disclose the claimed cutting step, and that claim 14, and all claims dependent thereon, are allowable.

New independent claim 20 is based on subject matter from previously presented claims 8 and 13. In particular, claim 20 recites "a gap such that the portions of the stator poles outside the shell may be removed from the motor system." Applicant respectfully submits that Kikuchi et al. does not disclose this claim limitation, and respectfully requests that claim 20, and all claims dependent thereon, be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of the application at an early date. If the Examiner has any comments or questions regarding any of the foregoing, kindly telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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